

the SBA make public how effective individual SBICs are in their small business investments, guaranteeing that SBA-backed money is being used responsibly.

Finally, the EXCEL Act promotes outreach, thereby ensuring that the maximum possible number of small businesses can benefit from the SBIC program. The legislation encourages outreach to community banks and other lenders, states and municipalities, and asks the SBA to make their SBIC website more user-friendly.

The EXCEL Act contains a number of common sense provisions supported across the aisle, and is sponsored by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee. It enhances a program with proven success in providing capital to small businesses, and does so with the expectation that it will not add a dime to the deficit. Let us get this bill passed. Let us help small businesses excel.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 472—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 7, 2012, AS “OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM VETERANS DAY”

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 472

Whereas the initial volley of Operation Enduring Freedom took place in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, and October 7, 2012, marks the eleventh anniversary of the war;

Whereas Operation Enduring Freedom, launched in response to the terrorist attacks committed against the United States on September 11, 2001, targeted al-Qaida and the Taliban protectors of al-Qaida in Afghanistan;

Whereas Operation Enduring Freedom is the longest ongoing war in which the United States is involved;

Whereas the wounded warriors who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom carry the scars of war, both seen and unseen;

Whereas nearly 1,800 patriots in the United States Armed Forces have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan;

Whereas the war in Afghanistan should not fade from the hearts and minds of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the ongoing sacrifices made by the men and women of the Armed Forces should be recognized and honored: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 7, 2012, as “Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans Day”;

(2) honors the brave men and women who gave their lives while serving the United States in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to salute the more than half a million men and women who have served bravely in Afghanistan to preserve our shared security and freedom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—COMMENDING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE POLIO

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 473

Whereas polio is a highly infectious disease that primarily affects children and for which there is no known cure;

Whereas polio can leave survivors permanently disabled from muscle paralysis of the limbs and occasionally leads to a particularly difficult death through the paralysis of respiratory muscles;

Whereas polio was once one of the most dreaded diseases in the United States, killing thousands annually in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and leaving thousands more with permanent disability, including the 32nd President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt;

Whereas severe polio outbreaks in the 1940s and 1950s caused panic in the United States, as parents kept children indoors, public health officials quarantined infected individuals, and the Federal Government restricted commerce and travel;

Whereas 1952 was the peak of the polio epidemic in the United States, with more than 57,000 people affected, 21,000 of whom were paralyzed and 3,000 of whom died;

Whereas safe and effective polio vaccines, including the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (commonly known as “IPV”), developed in 1952 by Jonas Salk, and the Oral Polio Vaccine (commonly known as “OPV”), developed in 1957 by Albert Sabin, rendered polio preventable and contributed to the rapid decline of polio incidence in the United States;

Whereas polio, a preventable disease that the United States has been free from since 1979, still needlessly lays victim to children and adults in several countries where challenges such as active conflict and lack of infrastructure hamper access to vaccines;

Whereas the eradication of polio is the highest priority of Rotary International, a global association that was founded in 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, is currently headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, and has 1,200,000 members in more than 170 countries;

Whereas Rotary International and its members (commonly known as “Rotarians”) have contributed more than \$1,000,000,000 and volunteered countless hours in the global fight against polio;

Whereas the Federal Government is the leading public sector donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and provides technical and operational leadership to this global effort through the work of the Centers for Disease Control and the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas Rotary International, the World Health Organization, the United States Government, the United Nations Children’s Fund (commonly known as “UNICEF”), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have joined together with national governments to successfully reduce cases of polio by more than 99 percent since 1988, from 350,000 reported cases in 1988 to fewer than 700 reported cases in 2011;

Whereas polio was recently eliminated in India and is now endemic only in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the eradication of polio is imminently achievable and will be a victory shared by all of humanity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Rotary International and others for their efforts in vaccinating children around the world against polio and for the tremendous strides made toward eradicating the disease once and for all;

(2) encourages the international community of governments and non-governmental organizations to remain committed to the elimination of polio; and

(3) encourages continued commitment and funding by the United States Government to the global effort to rid the world of polio.

SENATE RESOLUTION 474—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY 2012 AS ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN-AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 474

Whereas the United States joins together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 100 language dialects;

Whereas according to the United States Census Bureau, the Asian-American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, which is a growth rate 4 times faster than the total United States population;

Whereas the 2010 decennial census estimated that there are 17,300,000 United States residents who identify as Asian and 1,200,000 United States residents who identify as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 6 percent of the total United States population;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas the year 2012 marks several important historic milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including the—

(1) 20th anniversary of the formal establishment of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month;

(2) 30th anniversary of the unpunished murder of Vincent Chin;

(3) 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of Japanese-Americans;

(4) 100th anniversary of the planting of the first cherry tree in Washington, D.C. from Japan;

(5) 130th anniversary of the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126); and